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Draft report

Addendum

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Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))

Programme 21. Protection of and assistance to refugees

1. At its 19th meeting, on 20 June 2000, the Committee considered programme 21, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Strong support was expressed for the programme and satisfaction was expressed with the focus of the programme on addressing the particular needs and capacities of refugee women and children and elderly refugees. Appreciation was also expressed for the emphasis placed on the development of options to ensure the security and the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements.

4. It was observed that some expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement could be better formulated to complement each other.

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Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the approval of programme 21 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 21.1:

In the first sentence, replace the words "provide international protection" with the words "ensure the provision of international protection" and the words "provide them with humanitarian assistance" with the words "ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance to them";

(b) Paragraph 21.2:

In the first sentence, replace the words "provide assistance to returnees" with the words "ensure that returnees receive assistance to help their sustainable reintegration";

(c) Paragraph 21.5 (d):

Replace the words "The provision of" with the words "Ensuring that UNHCR and its partners provide";

(d) Paragraph 21.5 (e):

Replace the words "The incorporation" with the phrase "Ensuring that UNHCR and its partners incorporate";

(e) Paragraph 21.5 (f):

At the end of the paragraph, insert a sentence reading "In this regard, due consideration should be given to the obligation of United Nations officials, in the conduct of their duties, to observe fully both the laws and regulations of Member States and their duties and responsibilities to the Organization";

(f) Paragraph 21.5 (g):

After the paragraph, insert a new paragraph (21.5 (h)) reading "The involvement as soon as possible of other humanitarian organizations, both national and international, in providing humanitarian assistance for refugees and other persons of concern";

(g) Paragraph 21.9 (d):

After the words "approaches to" add the words "preventing and";

(h) Paragraph 21.10 (b):

Replace the word "people" with the words "refugees and other persons of concern";

(i) Paragraph 21.10 (c):

(i) At the beginning of the paragraph, insert the words "The reduction in";

(ii) After the paragraph, insert a new paragraph (21.10 (d)) reading "The reduction in the number of refugee women and children and elderly refugees whose basic protection needs are not met";

(j) Paragraph 21.11:

Replace the word "provide" with the words "ensure the provision of";

(k) Paragraph 21.13:

After the fifth sentence, insert a new sentence reading "UNHCR will work to maximize the involvement of other humanitarian organizations, both national and international, in the provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees and other persons of concern, as appropriate";

(l) Paragraph 21.16 (c):

Revise the paragraph to read:

> **"Improve operational cooperation with the relevant host Governments and increased collaborative ventures with intergovernmental agencies having complementary mandates and with non-governmental organizations, with UNHCR strengthening cooperation with these organizations in providing humanitarian assistance where appropriate";**

(m) Paragraph 21.17:

Insert a new subparagraph reading "The number of refugees assisted and repatriated".